

THE - QUA - RAE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

EDITOR K3UPC-COPY DEADLINE IS 15th OF MONTH-MAY 1988

NEW APPEARANCE

After much searching, I have finally found and subsequently purchased a suitable computer program for publishing the QUA.RAE. It is a relatively new program and we are excited about the ease of the layout and also the appearance of the finished product. For the first time since I have been the Editor The QUA-RAE finally seems a little more professional than I previously had been able to do. The QUA-RAE should at long last, be of a consistently better quality, and hopefully will be much easier for all of us to read.



Many thanks to Tony Zona, WA3KGT, and his co-worker Gerry Trambley of The Times Publishing Co, who recommended this particular publishing program, and for Gerry's most generous offer of assistance in allowing me to evaluate this program prior to my actual purchase. The end result of the trial period is what you are now viewing. -K3UPC, Editor

REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT

Due to the recent sudden resignation of the former lone member of the former repeater committee, a newly organized committee has been formed. This committee consists of Acting Temporary Chairman KB3P, Chester Kanis; and the following members: Chairman elect WB3KGT, Tony Zona (who will officially assume his office in July); KA3AWR, Fred Weiser; KA3QWI, John O'Hearn; KD2HG, Mark Bronson; KY3D, Dick Blasco; N3GAF, Jim Sutkoff; N3DYY, Clark Coho; N3EOY, Dave Henderson; WB3AWR, Bill Klem; and WB2ICS, Joe Pearo.

(Editor's note) We congratulate these dedicated Hams who have recently volunteered to fill the gap. This is a formidable collection of talent! In behalf of all the RAE members, we extend our full support to them with sincere best wishes for success. Their immediate plans are to repair the long ailing repeater system(s) at

the lowest expense commensurate with highest reliability. They begin with an energetic and well planned approach to both the short term, and the long term needs. We plan to keep the members fully informed by publishing regular articles and reports from the repeater committee, as plans develop.

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

Are you an active member?
The kind that will be missed?
Or are you just content
That your name is on the list?



Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home
To criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied
To merely just belong?

Do you avoid appointment
By pretending to be sick?
And leave the work to just a few
Then talk about the clique?

Think it over brother,
You know right from wrong.
Are you an active member?
Or do you just belong?

SILENT KEY

We received word that Carl Rumberger, W3AAQ, of North East, PA and a long time member of the RAE has passed away. We want to extend our deepest sympathy to his family. The Amateur Fraternity has lost a long time friend, and we will miss him.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by President Chester Kanis, KB3P. The March minutes were approved as printed in the April QUA-RAE with two small corrections. First that Jim Ferguson, KZ3C, should have been quoted as having made his statements at the RAE board meeting, as he was absent from the regular meeting. The other correction was that Jim Spinks, KJ3L made his motion to sponsor Doug Maddox and his XYL to the Springfest and that the RAE sponsor a trophy for the QSO party in 1988,



The welcome mat was extended to a visitor, Don, KA3SRH. The roll call of officers and board members showed all to be present. Bob, N3FAW, gave the Treasurers Report, which was approved with an amendment by Joe, KC3LV, and seconded by K3IVG. The QUA-RAE report, John, K3UPC asked that those submitting articles be as early as possible with them and to not to wait for the deadline. This should help alleviate the last minute pressure to get the newsletter into print. The membership report, "Jim, KJ3L, stated there are now 180 paid-up members for 1988. Joe, K3IVG, gave a brief report on the Executive board meeting. Barb, KA3JTD, reported that there were no Public Service projects presently scheduled, but the liability forms had gone out to various organizations. Jim, KZ3C, again hammered on the need for all participants including RAE members to sign a release form in order to participate in any event. The new Repeater Committee was introduced, consisting of Chester, KB3P; Mark, KD2HG; Fred, KA3AWR; Dick, KY3D; Clark, N3DYY; Dave, N3EOY; Tony, WB3KGT; Jim, N3GAF; and Bill, WA3AAB. It was decided that Chester, KB3P, would temporarily be the Chairman until July, when Tony, WB3KGT, will become the permanent Chairman. Now lets all back off and let this fine group do their job, it is a formidable assignment! Fund Raising, Bob, N3FAW, asked for more help on this vital committee. Skywarn, Joe, K3IVG, is looking for a few more spotters, and asks that those who are interested contact Mike Sensor, N3GCN, to get scheduled into a training session. Field Day, Joe, KC3LV, Jim, KJ3L, and Chris, KB3A offered to serve on the committee. Education, Dick, KA3KFQ offered to again help on the committee to set up the classes, however as he will be in Florida during the sessions, declined the chair. Bob Beck, WB3BHY, reports that there was a good turn-out for Scout night, and

he thanked those contributing to it's success. He also briefly discussed the coming Boy Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air. Don Kelley, KA3QDM read a letter of recruitment from the Red Cross regarding a meeting at 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Chapter House. Old Business, KC3VD and KA3MJN turned in keys to the repeater, an I-Comm 430 Mhz FM Xcvr, and some insurance papers to Chester, KB3P. He asked all members to give their support to the new repeater committee. Bob Beck WB3BHY started a discussion regarding funds not being used for repeater update. New Business, Chris, KB3A, asked whether members were interested in new jackets. The insurance committee is in need of a chair person. Bill, WA3AAB, was appointed to the interference committee. Joe, K3IVG, stated that Tom Botchler of the Red Cross is in need of help in replacing the tower and antenna system, also voiced need for maps for use in Skywarn. A motion was made by KC3LV and seconded by WB3AAB to provide \$ 50.00 toward the purchase of the maps, if needed. The motion passed by oral vote. Dick, KA3KFQ suggested that Skywarn be put on a regular budget. The club equipment was not loaned out and it remained with the property chairman. Bob, N3FAW, won the drawing. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM. -Barb Crotty, KA3JTD, Secretary

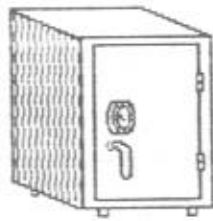
THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

Little did I expect to be sitting in the Presidents chair this time. Here I was, all set to go down in history as the laziest second term Vice President in the history of the club, but that is not to be. Now I will just have to knuckle down a bit and do the job at hand as best I can.

If long meetings are to be grounds for impeachment, I may not last. The first one was just a bit stretched out, but it seems that we did cover a lot of necessary territory. We will try to keep the meetings a bit shorter from now on. It is always good to see an increase in meeting attendance. The turnout at this last meeting was a good bit better than it has been lately. Only through membership participation can this club be expected to accomplish anything worth while.

Many members are now eagerly applying their talents to committee activities and the result is that there is high hope that great things can now be accomplished.

So join in with the rest. Let your wishes become known. By all means, offer your suggestions, but also offer your help as well. Help your club accomplish something worthwhile, for you! -KB3P, Chester Kanis, President



OLE "MONEY BAG'S" SPEAKS OUT

Beginning with this issue, I will try to write a short column for The QUA-RAE each month. I won't take the space to do a complete report, but will provide highlights. Any member who desires more detailed information is welcome to call me.

Raffle ticket payments are arriving in very good quantity. We have finally reached the break-even level and hope that we will be able to realize a good surplus from this popular fund raising event. Should we consider having additional raffles each year? Let your desires be known to Chester, or any of the Officers or Board members.

The dividend amounting to \$ 506.25, has been allocated to the general savings account, as directed at the April meeting. We will try to not use it for general operations of the club, but to keep it in reserve for times of need, for Capital improvements, and to help support special events. It is hard to understand why some individuals insist we spend certain funds in the treasury. Some of these funds are actually not available to spend, but provide an income to the club that helps to subsidize our dues. The dividends amount to \$ 4.70 per member, annually. If this dividend had not been made available it would have meant that our dues would had to have been larger by about that amount in each of the past many years.

Membership payments are lagging too far behind the due date of January 1. It does not make sense that we start asking for dues in October, with payments still trickling in through the following mid-year. Jim Spinks, KJ3L, says that only about 186 members are currently paid-up while at the end of 1987 we had 216 paid-up members. March saw only \$ 89.00 in dues collected.

In light of the above, and the extreme need for a dues increase for next year, in order to keep our head above water, I intend to propose a \$ 3.00 increase in dues, starting with the 1989 year. I will also propose that there be a monetary advantage for early payment, by making the dues \$ 12.00, if paid BEFORE January 1, and \$ 14.00, if payment is late. The

idea is not to get the extra \$ 2.00, but to stimulate early, or on-time payment.

I am mentioning it here so that it will not be a surprise. You can plan to attend the May meeting and partake in the discussion. 73, N3FAW, Bob Schwimmer

(Editors note: It's true, our actual expenses have exceeded our income for the past several years. We are getting nearly as bad as the Fed!)

SENIOR CITIZEN'S DISCOUNT

So many places now give Senior Citizen's discounts, that a little old lady asked her dog's veterinarian whether he too gave the discount. To which he replied that he did honor the practice, but only if the dog had reached 65.

A TYPICAL SMALL COUNTRY TOWN

A country editor friend once noted that a small town is a place where people know all the news before the newspaper comes out, but they take the paper anyway to see whether the editor got the stories the way they heard them.

WHY?

If life begins at 40, how come it ends at 39?

At any meeting, why do those with all the answers ask all the questions?

Why is it you never hear of a man marrying a woman to reform her?

How come nothing's ever what it was until it's gone?

A young Roman named Marcus Valenti
Had troubles and anguish aplenty.
He'd been beaten and plundered
By Huns by the C
Before he had even turned XX.

THE MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM

MARS is an acronym for the Military Affiliate Radio System, a three-pronged network organized primarily for handling messages to and from American Service personnel stationed overseas. Because of third-party traffic restrictions in many countries, MARS provides a service that is usually not permitted on the Amateur frequencies. Thousands of Amateurs participate in MARS (a separate license and authorization is required) on numerous nets, all of which are outside the Amateur Radio Band on military frequencies.

Many Amateur messages find their way into MARS circuits, and MARS messages find their way into Amateur (usually National Traffic System) nets, as a result of these Amateurs who provide liaison between the two circuits. Traffic for points overseas at which US military personnel are stationed can be introduced into NTS and ultimately handled via MARS, provided a complete military address is given. Third-party traffic coming from the MARS network into NTS nets for delivery by Amateur Radio is converted from MARS to Amateur format and handled as any other message. When the traffic originates overseas, the name of the country from which it originates followed by "via MARS," appears as the place of origin in the message preamble.

Information concerning MARS can be obtained directly from the individual branches at these addresses:

Air Force MARS:
Chief, Air Force MARS,
Hq. AFCC/DOOCC,
Scott AFB, IL 86613

Army MARS:
Hq. Army Info. Sys. Comm.,
AS-OPS-OA, Ft. Huachuca, AZ 85613

Navy-Marine Corps MARS:
Naval Communications Unit
Washington, DC 20390-5161

(Editors note: In the Western PA Area, we have the area coordinator right here in Erie, in the form of WA3JVM. If you are interested in Navy-Marine Corps MARS he can fill you in on what you must do to become involved. Why not give him a jingle.

WHAT IS THE QCWA ALL ABOUT?

The Quarter Century Wireless Association is the organization to join after you have been originally licensed 25 or more years ago. It is not a requirement that you have been continuously licensed for the whole period, just that your original license was issued either during or prior to 1964, with whatever the call sign was at the time.

The Lake Erie Tri-State (LETS) chapter invites you to join and participate in their activities. The next meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday, May 7, 1988, 12:00 noon at the Penn Laurel Inn, in Warren, PA. For reservations call Bert Van Houten, W3TPW, 838-1200, or Sid Stacey, W3MMJ, 825-2216.

For membership information call either Sid or Bert, or write to: QCWA, Inc., 1409 Cooper Drive, Irving, TX 75061. Prospective members are also invited to participate in the Sunday morning net at 9:30 AM on 3915 KHz.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The recent oil spill on the Monongahela River in Pittsburgh has generated a whole series of questions:

- Q What did Rand McNally name Pittsburgh?
 - A America's most lube-able city.
 - Q Heard about the moisturizer made from Mon water?
 - A Oil of PA.
 - Q What does Monongahela mean in Cherokee?
 - A Empty Crankcase.
 - Q What about the folks who live in Mon valley?
 - A They are all city slickers.
 - Q What are the names of the three rivers?
 - A 5W-30, 10W-30, and 10W-40.
 - Q How much will be charged on next water bill?
 - A 19 9/10 cents per gallon.
- I'm beginning to wonder just how crude this can

**friendly
reminder**



become

BE AWARE OF AUTO-PATCH VIOLATIONS

It is a violation to use the radio for even remotely connected business use. For example, it is a violation to use the auto-patch to call in to work to tell them you'll be sick, or even that you'll be late! Yes you do owe your boss a call, but don't use the auto-patch.

When you make a call, and your party has loud (enough to be heard over the radio) music playing, or you get put on hold, with background music playing, **you are in violation!** If that party swears, **you are in violation!**

When you are using the auto-patch, in effect **you are the control operator**, and must immediately terminate the call by pressing the pound key. **Failing to take immediate action could cost you your Amateur License!** Is it worth the risk? If you feel the party you call will not understand these guidelines, the solution is very simple, **DON'T CALL THEM!**

Remember you and you alone are totally responsible for what ever happens while you use the auto-patch. Enough said.



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Please check your mailing label below. If an N appears in the fourth row, you are not a current member, and this copy is being furnished through the generosity of the RAE. Our club needs every member in order to survive, and to be financially able to publish 'THE QUA-RAE' and also support the many other worthwhile club functions. The dues are still only a very small \$ 9.00 per year to become a full , or \$ 8.00 per year to become an associate member. Send your dues to: THE RAE, PO Box 844, Erie, PA, 16512

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